

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1       1. A system for controlling a volume output by a set of headphones to prevent  
2 harmful sound levels from damaging a user's hearing, the system comprising:  
3           a volume sensor/controller for determining sound levels from an audio source and  
4 comparing the predetermined sound levels to a volume threshold; and  
5           a warning indicator for indicating that the determined sound level is outside the volume  
6 threshold.

1       2. A system for controlling volume output as described in Claim 1, wherein the  
2 determined sound levels are represented as energy functions according to their respective  
3 frequencies.

1       3. A system as described in Claim 1, wherein the volume sensor/controller  
2 comprises:  
3           a volume calibrator for setting the volume threshold;  
4           a volume/frequency measurement sensor for representing the determined sound levels as  
5 energy functions; and  
6           a comparator for comparing the determined sound levels with the volume threshold and  
7 notifying the warning indicator that the volume threshold has been exceeded.

1       4. A system as described in Claim 1, wherein the warning indicator is fixed to the  
2 headphones for indicating when the volume threshold has been exceeded.

1       5. A system as described in Claim 4, wherein the warning indicator comprises a  
2 plurality of LED's.

1       6.     A system as described in Claim 4, wherein the warning indicator comprises an  
2           LCD.

1       7.     A system as described in Claim 4, wherein the warning indicator comprises an  
2           audio indicator.

1       8.     A volume sensor/controller as described in Claim 3, wherein the volume  
2           calibrator comprises:

3           a category selector allowing the user to select between different volume controlling  
4           settings matching different user characteristics; and

5           a category data base for storing the sound characteristics for the volume controlling  
6           settings.

1       9.     A volume calibrator as described in Claim 8, wherein the category data base  
2           comprises:

3           a default user setting;  
4           an age dependent setting;  
5           a listener type setting; and  
6           a manually controlled setting.

1       10.    A category data base as described in Claim 9, wherein the listener type setting is  
2           configured for setting the volume for a user having a form of hearing loss.

1       11.    A system for controlling a volume output by a set of headphones to prevent  
2           harmful sound levels from damaging a user's hearing, the system comprising a volume  
3           sensor/controller for:

4           determining sound levels from an audio source;  
5           comparing the determined sound levels to a volume threshold; and

1                   adjusting the volume output of the headphones to a level below the volume threshold if  
2                   said determined sound level is above the volume threshold.

1                   12.    A system for controlling volume output as described in Claim 11, wherein the  
2                   determined sound levels are represented as energy functions according to their respective  
3                   frequencies.

1                   13.    A system as described in Claim 11, wherein the volume sensor/controller  
2                   comprises:

3                   a volume calibrator for setting the volume threshold and a volume control mode;  
4                   a volume/frequency measurement sensor for representing the determined sound levels as  
5                   energy functions;  
6                   a comparator for comparing the determined sound levels with the volume threshold; and  
7                   an active volume controller for controlling the output volume by adjusting the output  
8                   volume accordingly in an automatic volume control mode.

1                   14.    A volume sensor/controller as described in Claim 13, wherein the volume  
2                   calibrator comprises:

3                   a volume control mode selector allowing the user to select between an automatic or  
4                   manual volume control mode;  
5                   a category selector allowing the user to select between different volume controlling  
6                   settings matching different user characteristics; and  
7                   a category data base for storing the sound characteristics for the volume controlling  
8                   settings.

1                   15.    A volume calibrator as described in Claim 14, wherein the category data base  
2                   comprises:

3                   a default user setting;

1 an age dependent setting;  
2 a listener type setting; and  
3 a manually controlled setting.

1 16. A category data base as described in Claim 15, wherein the listener type setting is  
2 configured for setting the volume for a user having a form of hearing loss.

1 17. A volume sensor/controller as described in Claim 13, wherein the active volume  
2 controller comprises:  
3 a volume adjuster for adjusting the volume according to the compared energy value; and  
4 a notifier for notifying the warning system that an adjustment was necessary.

1 18. A system for controlling a volume output to prevent harmful sound levels from  
2 damaging a user's hearing, the system comprising:  
3 a set of headphones;  
4 a volume sensor/controller for determining a sound level corresponding to an audio  
5 source and comparing the sound level to a volume threshold; and  
6 a warning indicator remote from the headphones, in communication with the volume  
7 sensor/controller, for indicating that the determined sound level is above the volume threshold.

1 19. A warning system as described in Claim 18, wherein the warning indicator is  
2 provided by a PC.

1 20. A warning system as described in Claim 19, wherein the PC includes a database  
2 for storing a user's listening history.

1 21. A warning system as described in Claim 18, wherein the warning indicator is  
2 provided on a remote hand held device.

1           22. A system as described in Claim 18, further comprising wireless connection  
2 hardware for wirelessly connecting the headphones and the audio source.

1           23. A method for controlling a volume output of a set of headphones to prevent  
2 harmful sound levels from damaging a user hearing, the method comprising:  
3           setting a volume threshold;  
4           receiving audio signals from an audio source;  
5           comparing the audio signals to the volume threshold; and  
6           adjusting a volume output of the compared audio signal to be within the volume  
7 threshold.

1           24. A method as described in Claim 23, further comprising sending a warning signal  
2 to a warning indicator when the audio signals are determined to be above the volume threshold.

1           25. A method of sending a warning signal as described in Claim 24, wherein the  
2 warning signal is sent via a network.

1           26. A method as described in Claim 24, further comprising storing each occurrence of  
2 sending the warning signal in a database.